

NCES DOVE UPDATE

DATA ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE NCES TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (TRP) ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

We are trying something new with this edition of the *DOVE Update* by making it a “feedback” edition. We hope that you will read about our plans in the *Update* and respond to our questions (via e-mail, as described below) to help us make better decisions. In this edition, we focus on our plans for the next Technical Review Panel (TRP) meeting. If this process works, we hope to use it to obtain your feedback on other issues as well.

VOCED FAST FACTS

In 1999, 13 percent of public secondary schools and 27 percent of less than 4-year postsecondary institutions offered more than 10 occupational programs.

SOURCE: Richard P. Phelps, Basmat Parsad, Elizabeth Farris, Lisa Hudson, *Features of Occupational Programs at the Secondary and Postsecondary Education Levels* (NCES 2001-018), (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, June 2001).

DOVE TRP Meeting. As the end of fall approaches, our thoughts turn to spring and our next TRP meeting. As some of you may know, the National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE) is planning to sponsor a one and a half day conference summarizing findings on the impact of vocational education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. This conference should address many of the issues raised at our last meeting that are of interest to TRP members—issues that are often difficult to address through NCES reports. As a TRP member, you will be invited to this conference. However, we are also considering scheduling the next TRP meeting to coincide with the Impacts Conference, which will likely be held at the end of February or early March. To assess whether to coordinate these events, we would like to know:

Are you interested in attending the Impacts Conference?
Would you prefer that we coordinate our meeting with this conference, or would the timing of the TRP meeting not matter to you?

We also are interested in your feedback about agenda items for the TRP meeting. We will have reports of the three TRP Work Groups that grew out of the last meeting. The Common Core of Data (CCD) Work Group (working to get better coverage of vocational schools in the CCD) includes Gary Hoachlander (lead), Jay Cummings, Steve Equall, and Kim Green. The National Survey of Postsecondary Faculty (NSOPF) Work Group (drafting a module for faculty at 2-year institutions for the NSOPF) includes Gary Hoachlander (lead), Norton Grubb, Ric Hernandez, Charles Hopkins, Kent Phillippe, and Betsy Warner. The Education Longitudinal Survey (ELS) Work Group (which will consider 12th-grade surveys of vocational teachers or coordinators as part of ELS) includes Karen Levesque (lead), Sharon Belli, Kim Green, Rob Meyer, and Marsha Silverberg.

We also could present key findings from the two main reports we are currently working on (and which are due to be completed in January): *Trends in High School Vocational/Technical Coursetaking: 1982–1998* and *Trends in Who Participates in High School Vocational/Technical Education: 1982 to 1998*. Other discussion topics might include reports on continuing work: 1) adults’ participation in work-related education, 2) participation in postsecondary vocational education, and 3) high school vocational education teachers. Another potential topic for discussion is the next edition of *Vocational Education in the United States*, to be published in 2004. We will need to begin that report in 2002 and welcome your advice on how to make it most useful and interesting for readers. There are likely to be other topics you would like to add to the agenda, which leads to the following question:

What specific topics you would like to have included—or excluded—from the Spring 2002 TRP meeting?

If you need to refresh your memory about what we discussed at our last meeting, log on to the TRP Web site and go to “Meetings” (if you have forgotten how to log on, send an e-mail to Kathleen Mullen at kmullen@mprinc.com).



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please send your responses by December 15 to

VOCED-ADMIN@MPRINC.COM



LATEST NEWS

In preparation for the NAVE’s *Interim Report to Congress*, we are working on two reports, *Trends in High School Vocational/Technical Course-taking* and *Trends in the Participation of Special Population Students in High School Vocational/Technical Education*. We hope both reports will be released in January or February, shortly after the NAVE submits its Interim Report.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Two reports are slated for Web release in the next month or so: *Persistence of Employees Who Pursue College Study* (NCES 2002-118) and *Participation Trends and Patterns in Adult Education* (NCES 2002-119). Look for them soon on the NCES Web site (<http://nces.ed.gov>).

Guidance Counseling FRSS. We reported in the last *DOVE Update* that NCES and OVAE are working on a Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) survey that explores schools’ guidance and career counseling programs. At this time, we have pretested the instrument and expect it to be administered in early 2002. The questions focus on guidance programs and services offered, guidance program goals, and in-service offerings for guidance personnel. This survey will allow us to look specifically at career guidance activities and to compare guidance activities in schools that serve different student bodies.